

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO THIRD EMERGENCY GENERAL CONFERENCE:
KHMER CREDENTIALS CHALLENGE

REF: PARIS 26979, PARIS 27207, PHNOM PENH 11344

1. SUPPORTERS OF PRINCE SIHOUNOUK'S GOVERNMENT IN EXILE
(GRUNK) MAY ORGANIZE CAMPAIGN IN UNESCO TO UNSEAT RE-
PRESENTATIVES OF KHMER REPUBLIC (GKR) AND SEAT GRUNK AS
SOLE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES OF CAMBODIA. ON OCTOBER 17,
UNGA BY VOTE OF 68 TO 24(US) WITH 29 ABSTENTIONS, IN-
SCRIBED ON AGENDA ITEM "RESTORATION OF LAWFUL RIGHTS OF
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION OF CAMBODIAN (GRUNK)
IN UN". US HAS A DIFFICULT UPHILL BATTLE AHEAD IN
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ORDER TO MAINTAIN GKR'S SEAT IN UN AND SPECIALIZED

AGENCIES. NOTWITHSTANDING HEAVY UNGA VOTE IN FAVOR OF INSCRIPTION WE CURRENTLY ESTIMATE MUCH CLOSER VOTE ON SUBSTANCE SINCE MANY COUNTRIES WHO VOTED IN FAVOR OF OR ABSTAINED ON INSCRIPTION DID SO BECAUSE THEY UPHOLD PRINCIPLE OF RIGHT OF MEMBERS TO INSCRIBE NEW ITEMS, EVEN THOUGH THEY INTEND VOTE AGAINST SUBSTANCE OF ITEM.

2. US SUPPORTS CONTINUED REPRESENTATION OF GKR IN UN AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD SET DANGEROUS PRECEDENT FOR ALL MEMBER STATES IF AN

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WERE TO SEAT A GOVERNMENT IN EXILE WHILE EXPELLING THE GOVERNMENT LOCATED IN ITS NATION'S CAPITAL AND IN CONTROL OF THE MAJORITY OF ITS POPULATION. IF ISSUE IS RAISED, THE US, FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF THE GKR AND FRIENDLY ASIANS (INCLUDING INDONESIA, PHILIPPINES, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, AND THAILAND) SHOULD STRONGLY OBJECT TO CONSIDERATION BY A TECHNICAL ORGANIZATION, SUCH AS UNESCO, OF A POLITICAL QUESTION OF WHICH UNGA IS CURRENTLY SEIZED. DELEGATION SHOULD NOTE THAT IT IS NORMAL PRACTICE OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TO ACKNOWLEDGE COMPETENCE OF THE UNGA TO DECIDE WHICH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTS ITS COUNTRY. IF THERE IS A MOVE TO INSCRIBE A SEPARATE ITEM ON CAMBODIAN CREDENTIALS DELEGATION SHOULD OPPOSE INSCRIPTION AND IF IT IS INSCRIBED, VOTE NO ON SUBSTANCE, EACH TIME WITH AN EXPLANATION OF VOTE COORDINATED WITH GKR AND FRIENDLY ASIANS.

3. IF ISSUE IS RAISED THROUGH A CHALLENGE TO REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, THE US, FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF FRIENDLY ASIAN, SHOULD LOBBY AND VOTE AGAINST CHALLENGE. SINCE CURRENT GENERAL CONFERENCE IS IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION, US SHOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH UNESCO SECRETARIAT TO INSURE THAT COMPOSITION OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE IS SAME AS THAT OF LAST YEAR WHICH WAS APPOINTED FOR REGULAR UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE AND WHOSE COMPOSITION IS FAVORABLE TO GKR.

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4. IF A MOVE TO REJECT GKR CREDENTIALS SUCCEEDS, DELEGATIONS SUPPORTING THE GKR SHOULD USE THEIR INFLUENCE WITH CHAIRMAN AND UNESCO LEGAL COUNSEL TO HAVE REJECTION OF GKR CREDENTIALS INTERPRETED AS A CENSURE OF GKR WHILE ALLOWING GKR TO MAINTAIN ITS SEAT AND ALL RIGHTS OF MEMBERSHIP. (A SIMILAR RULING WAS MADE BY UNGA PRESIDENT RECENTLY WHEN UNGA VOTED TO REJECT SOUTH AFRICAN CREDENTIALS WHICH HAD BEEN RECOM-

MENDED FAVORABLY BY THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.)

5. DELEGATION WILL HAVE LIST OF COUNTRIES RECOGNIZING GKR AND GRUNK. WE HAVE RECEIVED CREDIBLE BUT UN-CONFIRMED REPORTS USSR (AND SOV BLOC) IN PROCESS WITHDRAWING RECOGNITION FROM GKR AND ESTABLISHING FORMAL RELATIONS WITH GRUNK. THEREFORE, WE MUST ASSUME SOV BLOC TENDING TO FAVOR SEATING OF GRUNK. DELEGATION SHOULD NOT RPT NOT APPROACH SOV BLOC ON THIS ISSUE WITHOUT SEEKING FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

6. DELEGATION SHOULD INFORM DEPT IMMEDIATELY OF MOVES TO CHALLENGE KHMER CREDENTIALS AND DEVELOPMENTS THEREON. KISSINGER

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